

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2003.
Hon. JIM NUSSLE,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2004 budget and is current through May 19, 2003. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the

technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004. The budget resolution figures incorporate revisions submitted by the Committee on the Budget to the House to reflect funding for the fiscal year 2003 supplemental appropriations act. These revisions are authorized by section 421 of H. Con. Res. 95. This is my first letter for fiscal year 2004.

Since the beginning of the first session of the 108th Congress, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that changed budget authority, outlays, or revenues for 2004: the Consolidated Appro-

priations Resolution of 2003 (Public Law 108-7), the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-11) and the American 5-Cent Coin Design Continuity Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-15). The effects of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution of 2003 are included in the previously enacted section of the enclosed table. The effects of all other new laws are identified separately.

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,
Director.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2004 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF MAY 19, 2003

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous sessions:			
Revenues	0	0	1,466,370
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,088,831	1,061,159	0
Appropriation legislation	0	35,754	0
Offsetting receipts	-366,335	-366,336	0
Total, previously enacted	722,496	1,040,577	1,466,370
Enacted this session:			
Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-11)	215	27,349	0
American 5-Cent Coin Design Continuity Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-15)	-1	-1	0
Total, enacted this session	214	27,348	0
Entitlements and mandates:			
Budget resolution baseline estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs not yet enacted	359,270	338,760	0
Total current level ¹	1,081,980	1,406,685	1,466,370
Total budget resolution	1,861,333	1,884,280	1,325,452
Current level over budget resolution	0	0	140,918
Current level under budget resolution	-779,353	-477,595	0
Memorandum			
Revenues, 2004-2008:			
House current level	0	0	8,640,211
House budget resolution	0	0	8,168,933
Current level over budget resolution	0	0	471,278

¹ For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the budget resolution does not include prior-year outlays of \$508 million for Social Security administrative expenses. As a result, current level excludes these items.

NOTE.—P.L. = Public Law.
Source: Congressional Budget Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER
TIME

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ENCOURAGING SECRETARY TOM
RIDGE TO RELEASE TAPES OF
CALLS FROM DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY IN TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, tonight I strongly encourage Secretary Tom Ridge to release the tapes of the call from the Department of Public Safety in Texas asking for the Department of Homeland Security to track down Texas House Democrats who fled to Oklahoma last week.

I came up here for literally years talking specifically about the issue of missing children. I find it a little astounding that I am standing here talking about something that is really having such a dire effect on the people of the State of Texas because of the incident that occurred recently, where people literally attempted to cram legislation down the throats of Texas citizens without giving them a voice in that process, a very onerous thing to have happen.

I want to turn my tasks to what I can make a serious difference with on families, something about children. But here I am, asking the Secretary of Homeland Defense to step into a situation where his own agency could have delivered information, and still might, deliver information that could make a difference in helping us understand what it was that drove those 51 legislators out of the State of Texas and over into Ardmore, Oklahoma, to send a message, to send a message that we are not going to take being excluded from participating in the process of making legislation anymore. Whether it is at the Federal level or whether it is in the State of Texas, it is wrong.

The people of this country created a system that we all participate in through our representatives. When representatives are excluded, then the people are excluded. Their voices are not heard.

Back to our request of Secretary Ridge, the use of the Homeland Secu-

rity Department for political reasons is shameful, and it needs to be investigated. We need to know answers of why, what happened.

I remember when I was teaching at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, during the years of the early 1970s, the Watergate era. Like all Americans, I was absolutely shocked and dismayed at the wanton abuse of power of the Nixon administration. Secretary Ridge's decision to not release these tapes yesterday brings back memories for me of that dark era in American history. That is not what we are about in the United States of America. We should not have a secret government that keeps stuff from the people.

The Nixon administration used the FBI for political reasons, and then they refused repeated requests from journalists to review their actions. Two weeks ago, the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), told numerous reporters that he wanted the FBI to use its resources to track down the Democrats who went to Oklahoma.

The thought of using the FBI for such reasons, in my opinion, is unconscionable. Now we have learned that the Texas Department of Public Safety used the Homeland Security Department to track down a plane belonging to former Texas House Speaker Pete Laney. The Department of Homeland Security should be used for protecting Americans from terrorists, not for political objectives, regardless of from whom the political objectives come.

Many of my colleagues have asked to review those tapes of the phone calls between the Department of Public Safety in Texas and the Department of Homeland Security, but we are told by Secretary Ridge's office that the tapes are currently unavailable. That makes me and many of my colleagues wonder why.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman was expressing concern about using the Federal Bureau of Investigation with reference to political purposes. The gentleman is aware that it was the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) who himself talked about calling out the G-men, the government men, and mentioned using the FBI. We have seen that movie "U.S. Marshal", pulling in the U.S. Marshal on this. This is all in addition to Homeland Security. He said that he had a former Justice Department official on his staff investigating this and that they pulled in some United States attorney, those are the people in charge of prosecuting crimes in the State of Texas, but some United States attorney down there who was also diverted to this political task.

Mr. LAMPSON. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I understand that that exactly happened. Supposedly, it was in San Antonio. Those are not things that should be happening in our government.

If we learned anything from the Watergate era, it is that the government needs to be accountable for its actions. It cannot be held accountable if important documents are not available to journalists and Members of the United States Congress so they can review them. So we need to review these tapes to ensure that nothing improper happened and the Department of Homeland Security is working to protect us against terrorists and not members of the Texas House of Representatives.

CONGRESS SHOULD OVERHAUL U.S. DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WITH POOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I had the opportunity to do something that millions of Americans would love to do: I asked the Internal Revenue Service to account for the use of its taxpayer dollars.

Representing the Committee on Government Reform at the Joint Committee on Taxation's annual review of the Internal Revenue Service, I took part in what is an absolutely essential function of Congress: oversight and reform.

Too often, both Members of Congress and voters forget that this body is not

here just to pass new laws and spend more money. We are here to review and to reform the programs that we have already created and the money that we have already spent on those programs.

In 2001, the Federal Government could not account for \$17.3 billion, according to the Treasury Department. That is 17.3 billion taxpayer dollars.

The U.S. General Accounting Office, the GAO, has refused to certify the Federal Government's own accounting books because the bookkeeping is so poor, and 21 of the 26 departments and major agencies received the lowest rating possible for their financial management, meaning that auditors cannot even express an opinion on their financial statements.

Clearly, we are talking about significant sums of money. I think many of my colleagues would agree that when it comes to hard-earned taxpayer dollars, there is no such thing as insignificant waste. Congress must live up to its obligation to provide stronger financial management oversight for Federal programs that are costing us billions of dollars, and that is billions with a B, every single year.

I know that the Committee on Government Reform and Congress are committed to reducing waste, fraud and abuse of current programs. More importantly, we should take the time and effort not just to chase after losses, but to overhaul a system that allows so much waste, fraud and abuse to exist.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor this evening to talk again about the Republican raid on Social Security a year ago to cover their growing deficits because of the Bush administration tax breaks to the upper crust that created no new jobs. Where did they get the money to do it?

This first chart goes back about a year to June 18 of last year. At that point, they had taken from Social Security's trust funds over \$218,095,890,410, or about \$775 per American. We just asked the Department of the Treasury to give us the update. Now, this year already, clocking the Republican raid on Social Security to cover their tax breaks mainly to the top earners in this country, they have now taken \$498,863,013,099, or about \$1,714.24 per American. That is nearly a half a trillion dollars just as of May 20, just as of this week.

Now, Social Security is a financial lifeline for 46 million Americans, but the Republicans continue to play a game of fiscal "chicken" with the Federal deficit. They are borrowing from Social Security's trust funds to give tax breaks aimed at next year's elections.

Let us make one thing clear: Americans might have elected some Repub-

licans into this House and the other body, but they did not give them a mandate to rob Social Security.

Now, this past March, the Republican leadership of this House voted on a budget that will give us deficits as far as the eye can see. I thought that this particular editorial cartoon from the Rocky Mountain News was particularly illustrative, with this giant deficit that is being created for the future as a result of the type of tax program that they have put in place, with absolutely no jobs being yielded, but in fact giving us a debt that will kill jobs and weaken Social Security and Medicare, just when 77 million baby boomers start to retire.

Earlier this month, the same House Republicans voted a \$550 billion, more than half-a-trillion, in tax breaks, mostly to the wealthiest 1 percent of earners in this country, and there is no requirement that money be invested in this country. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Federal Government has run a deficit of approximately \$202 billion in the first 7 months of this fiscal year. And where do we think they are getting the money from? Where does the money exist? In our Social Security trust funds.

Now that amount of debt that has been added this year is \$138 billion more than the same period last year, so it is getting worse. The Congressional Budget Office now expects that the government will end up this year with a deficit of over \$300 billion.

What is the biggest reason for this most radical fiscal reversal in American history and the raid that is going on on Social Security? The Bush tax program aimed at the next election, not the next generation.

What is the effect of this burgeoning public debt? They are mortgaging Social Security's future payouts. They are forcing our country to cover the rest of their borrowing with more dependence on foreign investors who buy our debt bonds, starting with China and Japan and then Saudi Arabia, and they are taking away independence for this Republic and for the American people and a lot less independence for future generations.

I am no longer surprised, but I am amazed at how President Bush and his fellow Republicans are so eager to chip away at Social Security, weaken Social Security, and ultimately play roulette with our people's Social Security trust funds, which we voted seven times to put in the Social Security lockbox. They are raiding the lockbox.

□ 1730

The American people deserve better. Working families deserve better. Your grandmothers and grandfathers deserve better. They have earned a secure retirement.

We have to get back to the fiscal basics and put Social Security first. Would you rather have \$300 today, or Social Security for all of your retirement tomorrows? Congress is the protector of Social Security, the primary